

submitted 3/2/2022 by Irene Weiss  
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for the League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT

The League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT represents members in more than 20 towns in Southeastern Connecticut.

I am writing in support of SB 184 and HB 5262

**S.B. No. 184** An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of COVID-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot." **This bill allows COVID-19 to be a valid reason to use absentee ballots for the November 2022 election.**

I have no doubt that you know someone, a friend, or relative, or acquaintance who had planned to go to a meeting, on a trip or a visit, but had to cancel that due to a positive test for Covid 19. We all hope that November 2022 will see a very low risk for exposure to the virus. But there is no way to predict that will happen. The League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT does not want to see anyone deprived of their right to vote due to a last minute infection with Covid 19. Please support SB 184 so that no one will be excluded from voting.

**H.B. No. 5262** An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes. **This bill allows for the amendment of the current statute which defines the criteria for obtaining an absentee ballot to cover the fear of illness.**

It has been noted that the statute is more exclusionary than the Connecticut Constitution. Whether or not the Covid 19 illness is in retreat for the Nov 22 election, there will be many voters, possibly with autoimmune or other conditions, who will be afraid to enter a polling place. In keeping with our goal to give voters as much access to voting as possible, the League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT supports HB 5262.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please support these bills.

Respectfully submitted,

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